

IN THE MATTER OF  
AN APPLICATION TO REGISTER LAND AT  
STOKE LODGE PARKLAND AS  
A TOWN OR VILLAGE GREEN  
UNDER SECTION 15 OF THE COMMONS ACT 2006

BETWEEN:

MR D MAYER – APPLICANT

AND

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL & ORS – OBJECTORS

**Statement of:** - JOHN GOULANDRIS  
(BLOCK CAPITALS)

My Name is: - JOHN GOULANDRIS

My Address is: - 44 CHURCH ROAD  
STOKE BISHOP  
BRISTOL BS9 1QT

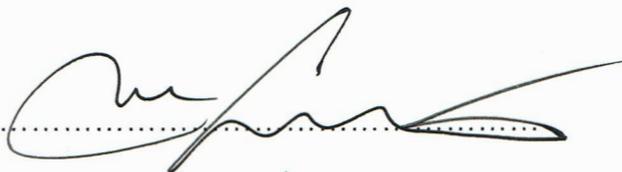
My occupation is: - BRISTOL CITY COUNCILLOR

I will say as follows: -

1. Please refer to my Questionnaire attached and dated: - 22/3/16
2. Please refer also to my Statement attached and dated: - 22/3/16

I believe that the facts stated in these statements are true.

Signed .....



Dated.....

22/3/16

**Witness Statement in support of Town & Village Green Application  
for Stoke Lodge Parkland**

My name is John Goulandris.

I live at 44, Church Road, Stoke Bishop, Bristol BS9 1QT and have lived at this address, since moving to Bristol from London in March 1987.

I was first elected as Bristol City Councillor for the ward of Stoke Bishop in May 2002. I continue to represent the ward.

Following my re-location to Bristol in 1987, my wife and I spent many happy times exploring our new home city. We both enjoy walking and we were delighted to find walks from our home to various locations such as the Downs and Stoke Lodge Parkland.

Although my wife and I don't have any children of our own, we are blessed with numerous nephews, nieces and godchildren, who together with their parents, often visit us in Bristol. We regularly go out together for exercise and one of our favourite destinations is Stoke Lodge Parkland. We tend to follow a routine; we walk to the shops at the bottom of Druid Hill, purchase drinks/ice creams and then walk up Druid Hill, crossing Shirehampton Road into Stoke Lodge. We walk in the grounds and play low key sport – kicking a football or improvised tennis, throwing a frisbee - and generally explore the area, especially around the main house (Stoke Lodge Adult Education Centre).

We nearly always come across many other family groups, passing the time in a similar way. Many family groups are intergenerational i.e. grandparents, parents and children out together as a group. Other regular users we frequently encounter are dog walkers.

At the time I first started using Stoke Lodge Parkland I don't recall seeing any Council signs. Probably too busy concentrating on looking after my young charges! My impression was that the land was available to residents to use as of right. Certainly, no one ever challenged our use of the parkland or even asked us what we were doing. In my whole time of walking in the grounds of Stoke Lodge - from 1987 to now – not once has anyone spoken to me to advise me that I was on private property. I have spoken to many local residents, who have likewise have openly used the parkland for many years; who have also had the same experience i.e. no-one from the Council has ever challenged them or even spoken to

them to advise them that use of the site was restricted or required permission to be used.

Older residents have told me that public use of the site became commonplace in the late 1940s/early 1950s, which I believe coincides with the purchase of Stoke Lodge by the Council. They do not recall any attempts by the Council to discourage free and unfettered public use of the site.

Stoke Lodge Parkland is viewed by local residents as a community asset used as of right through custom and practice. They have been able to access the site and enjoy its use at all times since the 1950s freely, without secrecy and without the landowner's permission. The site is much used and much loved; whilst use increases on warm Summer days, when it is absolutely packed full of families walking, exercising and playing informal sport, the parkland is used throughout the year, every day of the year from dawn to dusk.

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signature .....



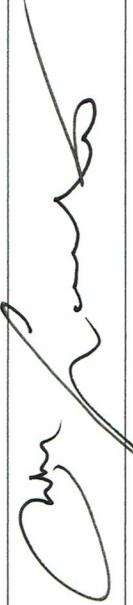
Date .....

22/3/16

Save Stoke Lodge Parkland - Application for Town Green Registration - Evidence Questionnaire	
NAME of Witness Print	JOHN GOUL ANDRIS BRISTOL CITY COUNCILWOR STOKEL BISHOP WARD)
1	Your address when you used the land being claimed as "Town Green" and edged in red on Map "A"? 44 CHURCH ROAD STOKEL BISHOP BRISTOL BS9 1QT
2	Your address when you knew the land edged in red on Map "A" was being used by the local inhabitants? If different from 1 above? A2 ABOVE
3	Did you sign the map "A" attached to confirm your understanding of the extent of The Land being claimed? As "Town Green" edged in Red? And relates to the evidence YES
4	Confirm your agreement that the Locality or Neighbourhood is the Political Ward of Stoke Bishop plus parts of Westbury on Trym, Sea Mills and Coombe Dingle. Map "B" Yes
5	Please confirm that you have marked the location of your house on Map "B" with an X. Yes
6	By what name, if any, is The Land edged in red on Map "A" known? Stoke Lodge
7	Has the land, referred to in question 6, ever been known by any other name? If so what? NO
8	For how many years have you known about the Land edged in red on Map "A"? Since 1987
9	Between which years did you use the Land edged in red on Map "A"? 1987 - 2016
10	Do you consider yourself to be a local inhabitant in respect of the Land edged in red on Map "A"? Yes
11	During the time you have used the Land edged in red on Map "A", has the general pattern of use remained basically the same? Yes

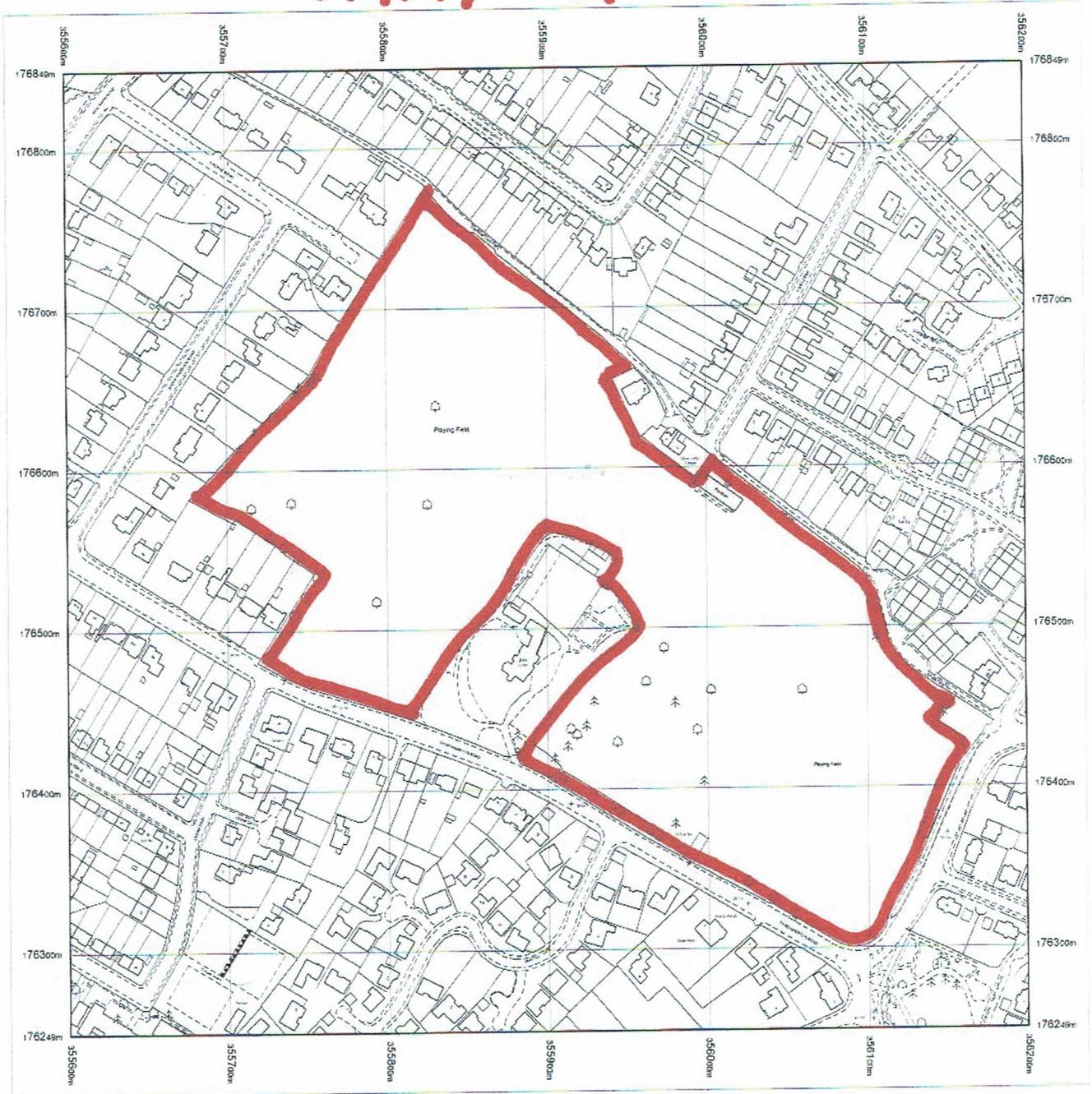
12	<p>What recognisable facilities are available to the local inhabitants of your locality? Please tick all boxes that apply and add any other additional matters not covered</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Local infants school</td> <td>✓</td> <td>Community centre</td> <td>✓</td> <td>Community activities</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Local junior school</td> <td>✓</td> <td>Sports facility</td> <td>✓</td> <td>A central feature</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Local secondary school</td> <td>NO</td> <td>Swimming pool</td> <td>NO</td> <td>Scout hut</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Residents association</td> <td>✓</td> <td>Library</td> <td>✓</td> <td>other</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Neighbourhood watch</td> <td>✓</td> <td>Alt green space within easy walking</td> <td>NO</td> <td>other</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Neighbourhood Partnership</td> <td>✓</td> <td>Area police</td> <td>✓</td> <td>other</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Local place of worship</td> <td>✓</td> <td>Doctors surgery</td> <td>✓</td> <td>other</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Local infants school	✓	Community centre	✓	Community activities		Local junior school	✓	Sports facility	✓	A central feature		Local secondary school	NO	Swimming pool	NO	Scout hut	✓	Residents association	✓	Library	✓	other		Neighbourhood watch	✓	Alt green space within easy walking	NO	other		Neighbourhood Partnership	✓	Area police	✓	other		Local place of worship	✓	Doctors surgery	✓	other			
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13	To your knowledge are there any public paths crossing the Land edged in red on Map "A"?		NO																																										
14	How do you gain access to the Land edged in red on Map "A"?		ROUNDABOUT AT TOP OF DEVID HILL																																										
15	How do you travel to and from the Land edged in red on Map "A"?		WALK																																										
16	Why do you go on to the Land edged in red on Map "A"?		RECREATION / PICNIC / INFORMAL SPORTS																																										
17	How often do/did you use the Land edged in red on Map "A"? (apart from use of any public paths on the Land)		MOSTLY IN SUMMER MONTHS																																										
18	What activities do/did you take part in on the Land edged red on Map "A"?		WALKING / INFORMAL SPORT																																										
19	Does your immediate family use the Land edged in red on Map "A"?		YES																																										
20	If so, for what?		WALKING / EXERCISE / INFORMAL SPORTS																																										
21	Do you know of any community activities that take place or have taken place on the Land edged in red on Map "A"?		EXERCISE AND FORMAL SPORT PRIMARY SCHOOL USE																																										
22	If so please list them and state when and for how long they have taken place?		AS ABOVE / REGULARLY																																										
23	Do/did you participate in any of them?		YES																																										

24	Do any organisations use the Land edged in red on Map "A" for sports or pastimes? If so, please specify.		FORMER SPORTS CLUBS LOCAL YOUTH GROUPS INFORMAL SPORTS
25	Do any seasonal activities take place on the Land edged in red on Map "A"		CRICKET IN SUMMER FOOTBALL IN WINTER
26	Please tick all the activities that you have seen taking place on the Land edged in red on Map "A"		
	Children playing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fetes
	Rounders	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Football
	Drawing and painting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rugby
	Dog Walking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cricket
	Team Games (Formal)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bird watching
	Team Games (informal)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Picnicking
	Picking blackberries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kite flying
	Community celebrations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	People walking
			Bonfire parties
			Bicycle riding
			Carol singing
			other School Groups
			other Jogging
			other
			other
			other
27	Do you know the name of the owner of the Land edged in red on Map "A"? And if so please state.		BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL
28	Do you know the name of the occupier of the Land edged in red on Map "A"? And if so please state.		BCC
29	Has the owner or occupier seen you on the Land edged in red on Map "A"?		DONT KNOW
30	What did they say? If anything?		NOT APPLICABLE
31	Was permission ever sought by you for activities on the Land edged in red on Map "A"?		NO
32	If so, from whom and when?		NOT APPLICABLE
33	Did anyone ever give you permission to go onto the Land edged in red on Map "A"?		NO
34	If yes, when and for what reason?		NOT APPLICABLE
35	Have you ever been prevented from using the Land edged in red on Map "A"?		NO

36	If yes, when and for what reason?	NOT APPLICABLE
37	Has any attempt been made by any means to prevent or discourage the use being made of the Land edged in red on Map "A" by local inhabitants?	NO
38	If yes, give examples and dates	NOT APPLICABLE
39	Are you aware of any signs or notices restricting access to the Land edged in red on Map "A" by local inhabitants?	YES POST APPLICATION
40	Do you have any photographs or any other evidence of use of the Land edged in red on Map "A" by local inhabitants?	NO
41	Are you willing to allow us to copy them for use as part of our application?	NOT APPLICABLE
42	If you have additional information please attach a separate statement? (witness statement etc)	SEE STATEMENT
43	If you have knowledge of others who may be in a position to complete an evidence form, would you please write their names and addresses upon the reverse of this form.	NOT APPLICABLE
44	<b>I have carried on the activities referred to in this questionnaire, on the Land edged in red on Map "A", for 29 years without anybody trying to stop me and I believe the activity should be treated by the law as having a lawful origin.</b>	
45	<b>I understand that the evidence form I have completed in relation to this application may become public knowledge and I authorise the applicant to disclose this form to anyone reasonably requiring access to this application.</b>	
46	<b>I also understand that this evidence may be presented at a non-statutory inquiry and I authorise the applicant to use this form for that purpose.</b>	
47	Signed	
48	Name	JOHN GOULDRIS
49	Date	22nd March 2016



MAP 'A'



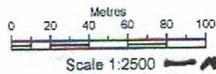
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The representation of a road, track or path is no evidence of a right of way.

The representation of features as lines is no evidence of a property boundary.

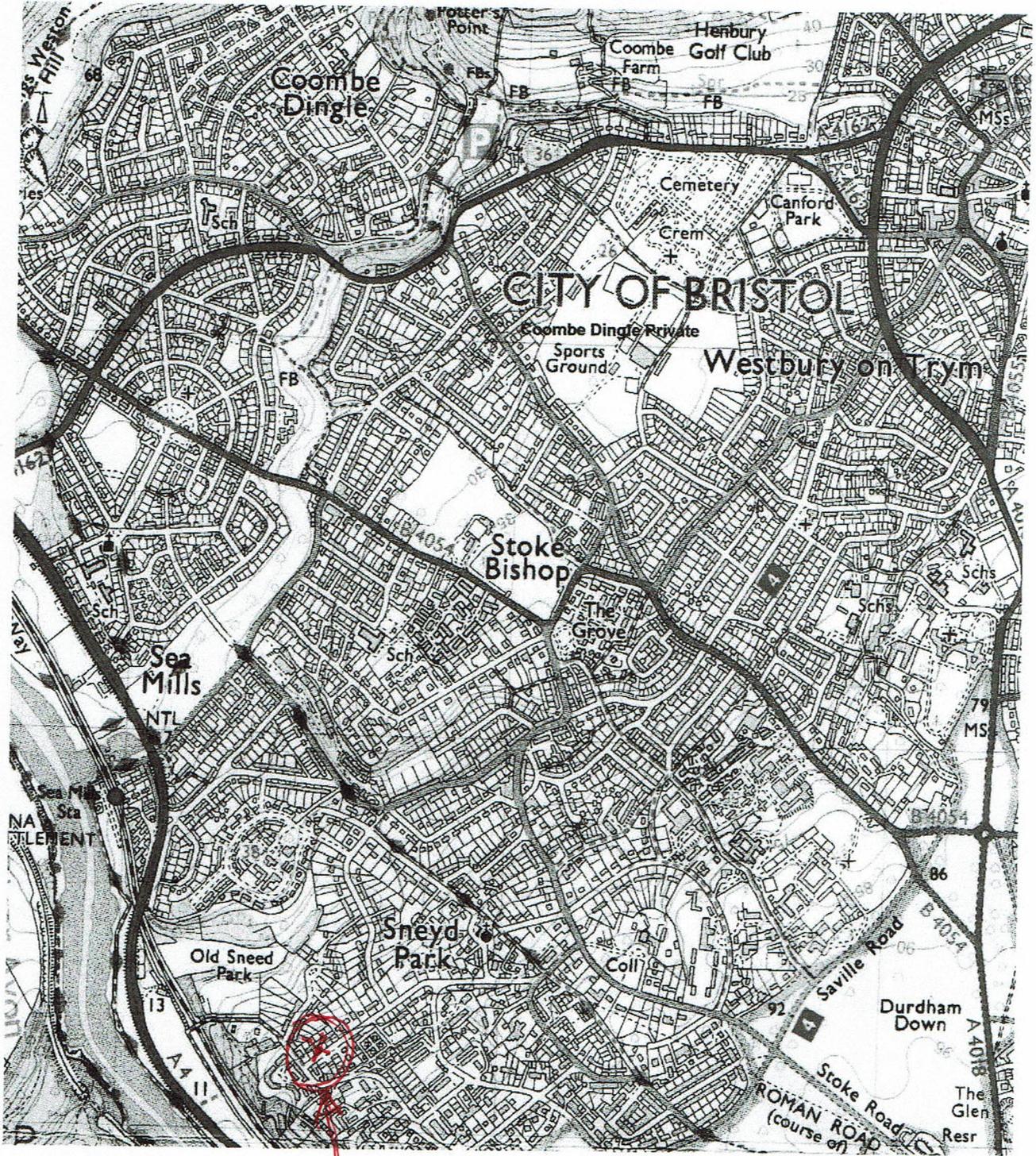


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Further information can be found on the OS Sitemap Information leaflet or the Ordnance Survey web site: [www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk](http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk)

Map "B" of locality surrounding Stoke Lodge Parkland



0 100 200 300 400 500



Meters